

Remarks

Claims 1-50 are pending. Claims 1, 17 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-20, 22-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants traverse the rejections.

The recited claim language is fully supported in the specification as originally filed.

Claims 1, 17 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states the recitation of the phrase ‘generating/providing a context for the transaction’ renders the claims vague and indefinite.

The specification as originally filed fully describes the “generating a context for the transaction” as that phrase, and related phrases, are used in the recited claim language. For example, at paragraph 62 (page 14, line 22 et seq.), the specification reads as follows:

The business context of all transactions is maintained in the network repository and process state managers to be used for real-time validation of the content of transactions to ensure high degrees of execution accuracy. A business context provides a complete view into a supply chain. Such business context may comprise information and data for the transaction, such as, for example, the type of transaction (e.g., purchase order, service request, installation request, warranty matter, replacement request, etc.); the names, addresses, and contact information of the partners involved in the transaction; the name, address, and contact for an end-user (e.g., consumer) which initiated the transaction; the purchase/service request order number for the transaction; the date on which the transaction was initiated; the dates on which the partners involved in the transaction was notified; the dates on which the involved partners completed tasks related to the transaction (e.g., shipped product, made service call to end-user's location, completed installation of new product, etc.); and the like. (*emphasis added*).

Further, the specification as originally filed states the following at paragraph 81 (page 19, line 32 et seq.):

The workflows 140, 142, and 142 may access real-time data relevant to a transaction from an existing partner system, generate a context for the transaction using the real-time data, and process a request for a transaction in the context for the transaction. In one embodiment, a context may be generated and maintained by using a particular item or set of information, such as, for example, a purchase order number, to identify, gather, forward, access, and process data and initiate and direct tasks and actions for the transaction.
(*emphasis added*).

Applicants submit that the recited claim language is fully supported by the specification as originally filed and the claim language, therefore, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention.

Stowell does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Claims 1-20 and 22-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stowell et al (U.S. 20020099579). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that the claimed step of accessing real-time data relevant to the transaction from an existing partner system is shown in paragraph 26 of the reference relied upon. However, the cited paragraph does not appear to provide any teaching regarding real-time data. Likewise, the Examiner asserts that paragraph 182 of Stowell teaches the claimed step of generating a context for the transaction using the real-time data. The referenced paragraph appears to teach a system for generating alerts, not a context as claimed. Using the example from the specification as originally filed and referenced above, there appears to be no teaching or suggestion for generating a context using, for example, a purchase order number, to identify, gather, forward, access, and process data and initiate and direct tasks and actions for the transaction. Nor does there appear to be any teaching for generating and maintaining a context on the basis of such information as for example, the type of transaction (e.g., purchase order, service request, installation request, warranty matter, replacement request, etc.); the names, addresses, and contact information of the partners involved in the transaction; the name, address, and contact for an end-user (e.g.,

consumer) which initiated the transaction; the purchase/service request order number for the transaction; the date on which the transaction was initiated; the dates on which the partners involved in the transaction was notified; the dates on which the involved partners completed tasks related to the transaction (e.g., shipped product, made service call to end-user's location, completed installation of new product, etc.); and the like. Nor is it apparent what real-time data is used and how it generates a context in the cited reference paragraph. At least these elements of the claimed invention do not appear to be taught by the reference relied upon as applied by the Examiner. These elements not having been shown to be disclosed by Stowell, the Examiner has not established that the claimed invention is anticipated by Stowell.

These elements being absent from the base claim, they are also absent from the dependent claims, which may contain additional limitations that distinguish the claimed invention from the reference relied upon. For example, with regard to claim 2, paragraph 140 of the reference relied upon does not appear to teach a partner coordinator component integrated with the existing partner system. The specification as originally filed states as follows: "At step 572, the partner coordinator component 180 translates the document from XML into a format capable of being read by a partner ERP system 198, and routes the document to the Partner ERP." See page 48, line 3 et seq. The paragraph cited by the Examiner does not appear to include a teaching for translating a document from one format to another format capable of being read by a partner system. Nor is it apparent how the cited paragraph teaches a component integrated with the existing partner system. Claims 2-16, which depend from claim 1, are not anticipated for the at least the same reasons described above for claim 1.

Similarly, the Examiner has rejected independent claim 17 based on the same rationale as claim 1. Applicants submit the same rationale offered above with respect to claim 1. The reference relied upon, as applied by the Examiner, does not appear to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Claims 18-37, which depend from claim 17, are not anticipated for the at least the same reasons described above for claims 1 and 17.

With respect to independent claim 32, from which claims 33-37 depend, and independent claims 28, from which claims 39 and 40 depend, the reference relied upon, as applied by the Examiner, does not appear to teach all the elements of the claimed invention. Paragraph 185, as cited by the Examiner, does not appear to teach a database operable to store real-time data for one or more transactions. It is not apparent that the cited paragraph teaches the storage of real-time data. The specification as originally filed describes examples of real-time data at page 17, line 1 et seq.:

This real-time data may include reference data and transaction data. Reference data can specify, for example, inventory levels and parts numbers. Transaction data can specify, for example, numbers for purchase orders, shipping receipts, invoices for various transactions in which the respective partner is involved; the dates and times at which the partners were notified, alerted, or requested to take actions or work on tasks; the kinds of tasks, actions, and the like required to be performed by the partners (e.g., pulling a product from inventory, packaging a product, delivering a product, making a service call to a customer, installing a machine at a customer site, repairing a machine, etc.); the dates and times at which the actions or tasks were completed; and the like.

It is not apparent from the cited reference that Stowell teaches a database operable to store data of this nature.

Also, as noted above with regard to claim 1, the paragraphs cited by the Examiner do not appear to teach a database operable to maintain a respective context for each transaction. Nor is it apparent that the cited reference teaches an execution process engine operable to execute a respective workflow in the context for each transaction using the real-time data.. The referenced paragraph 185 does not appear to teach maintaining a context for each transaction nor real-time data relating to the transactions.

The reference relied upon, as applied by the Examiner, does not appear to teach all the elements of claim 32. Therefore, the Examiner has not established that Stowell anticipates claims 32-40.

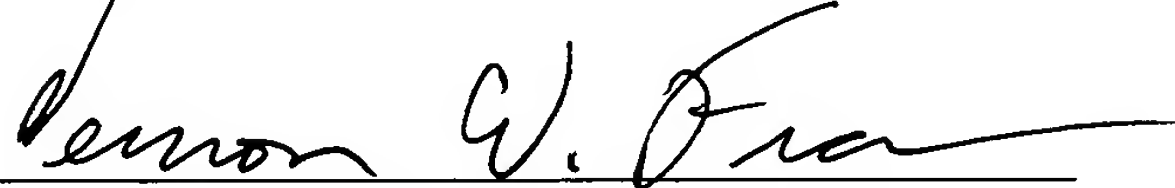
Similarly, the Examiner has rejected independent claim 41, from which claims 42-50 depend, based on the same rationale as claim 1. Applicants submit the same rationale offered above with respect to claim 1. The reference relied upon, as applied by the Examiner, does not appear to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Claims 41-50 are not anticipated for the at least the same reasons described above for claim 1.

In re Appln. of Reynaldo Gil et al.
Application No. 10/028,542

The Examiner has also rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stowell. Applicants traverse. As pointed out above, the reference relied upon, as applied by the Examiner, does not appear to teach each and every element of the claimed invention for claim 17, from which claim 21 depends. The Examiner having failed to point out where each and every element of the base combination is taught in the reference relied upon, these elements are also missing from the further refinement recited in claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to show how each and every element of claim 21 is taught or suggested in the reference relied upon and no prima facie case for obviousness has been established.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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In re Appln. of Reynaldo Gil et al.
Application No. 10/028,542



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JANUARY 23, 2006 (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 03/22/06

Christina M. Zemke

Amendment or ROA - Regular (Rev. 8/16/2003)